

178

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Sightings of Flying Saucers or Unconventional Aircraft

All four participants in the observation of the flying saucer [redacted] conventional aircraft have now been debriefed and the following is a summary of their observations.

2. The party was travelling by train [redacted] the specific request of [redacted] and [redacted] had tried to use rail transportation whenever it was at all feasible. The sightings were noted about ten minutes before [redacted] 1910 hours when it was already dark. [redacted] was resting alone in his compartment with the lights out when he noted a small greenish-yellow glowing ball rising quite rapidly. He informed the other members of the party who were occupying the other compartment and a few minutes later they too observed similar objects.

3. [redacted] could say the form of the object only the luminous ball. [redacted] saw only two lights resembling eyes. [redacted] saw a shabby object with a single light in the middle at the top and a row of lights or lights similar to candles at the base. [redacted] had the impression that the object could have been as small as a rocket although there were no objects available to produce a satisfactory scale and no trail was left by the rising ball. [redacted] considered the size of the object to be comparable to that of a U.S. jet fighter. However, [redacted] believes that the object did not resemble any aircraft, rocket or missile that he had ever seen. All observers agree on the impression that the object was rotating or whirling during its rise along its initial steep trajectory. Neither [redacted] [redacted] reported any change in this trajectory, but [redacted] stated that the object altered its pattern to horizontal flight quite abruptly. Neither [redacted] [redacted] saw any objects on the ground with the exception of the search lights, but [redacted] reported the presence of a tetragonal object with three lights which appeared to be ejected from a launching site.

4. Based on the interviews so far, the only testimony which would support the existence of flying saucers or specially unconventional aircraft is that of [redacted]. All other

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193

REPORT: Sightings of Flying Saucers, or Unconventional Aircraft

Observations can probably be explained as steep climbing aircraft or missiles. Further information will probably be required before the matter can be completely resolved. In the meantime, however, the evidence does not appear sufficiently firm to warrant the conclusion that the Soviets have developed and have in operation a radically new type of aircraft.

W. West Coville, Jr.

W. WEST COVILLE, JR.
Assistant Director
Scientific Intelligence

OSI: [Coville:ga] (31 October 1955)

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